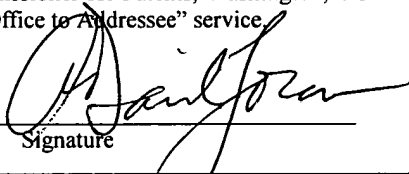


EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Date: November 23, 1999 Label No. EG 430 341 018 US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above I deposited this paper or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

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Registration No. 37,858


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Atty. Dkt. No. 000973/0003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Michael SEUL and Richard H. EBRIGHT

Serial No: Not Yet Known

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: COLOR-ENCODING AND IN-SITU INTERROGATION OF MATRIX-COUPLED
CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS

Priority International
Application: PCT/US98/10917

International
Filing Date: 22 May 1998

November 22, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in connection with the filing of a Continuation application identified above based on copending prior PCT International Application No. PCT/US98/10719 which designated the United States.

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the subject application as follows: